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PATENT  
1422-0528P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TAKANA, Shuji et al.  
Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/JP01/06621  
Appl. No.: New Group:  
Filed: April 1, 2002 Examiner:  
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING GRANULES FOR  
SURFACTANT SUPPORT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

April 1, 2002

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**AMENDMENTS**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP01/06621 which has an International filing date of August 1, 2001, which designated the United States of America.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) The process for preparing particles for supporting a surfactant according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the acrylic polymer formulated in the preparation liquid is in a form of an aqueous solution having a quinone content of 6 ppm or less.

5. (Amended) Particles for supporting a surfactant obtainable by the process of claim 1, wherein the particles for supporting a surfactant have a mode diameter of a microporous capacity distribution of 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less as determined by mercury porosimeter for one having a micropore diameter of from 0.01 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , a microporous capacity of 0.3 mL/g or more for one having a micropore diameter of from 0.01 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a particle strength of from 15 MPa or more.

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The amendment to the claims is merely to correct improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

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Attachment:      VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

(Rev. 02/21/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The process for preparing particles for supporting a surfactant according to [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1 or 2, wherein the acrylic polymer formulated in the preparation liquid is in a form of an aqueous solution having a quinone content of 6 ppm or less.

5. (Amended) Particles for supporting a surfactant obtainable by the process of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1, wherein the particles for supporting a surfactant have a mode diameter of a microporous capacity distribution of 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less as determined by mercury porosimeter for one having a micropore diameter of from 0.01 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , a microporous capacity of 0.3 mL/g or more for one having a micropore diameter of from 0.01 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a particle strength of from 15 MPa or more.

(Rev. 11/13/01)